

FORM B - BUILDING

Date (*month / year*): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

43-0-29-0

Hanover

HNS.238

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
South Hanson

Address: 1071 Main Street

Historic Name: Edwin T. Clark Store

Uses: Present: Commercial/Office

Original: Grocery Store

Date of Construction: ca. 1898

Source: White's History, Plan #4, Page 61

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Frank F. Keene

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Shingle and
Clapboard/Vinyl, Aluminum

Roof: Slate Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Vinyl
clapboard and shingle siding, replacement doors
and windows, and wood staircase on south façade

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ **yes** ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .20 Acres

Setting: Located in South Hanson along Main
Street in a formerly industrial and commercial
area adjacent to Hanson's railroad depot and
tracks which now includes a number of vacant
buildings and parcels which directly surround the
property.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

1071

Main Street

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The two-and-a-half story commercial structure has a long, rectangular form under a large slate shingled gable roof. The building is finished in vinyl shingle siding on the north, street-facing, façade and has at least two varieties of vinyl clapboard siding on its side and rear facades. Interestingly, the corners of the building are finished in a mix of vinyl and aluminum cladding which appears to be a remnant of a previous exterior finish. The wide gable roof overhangs the facades of the building on all sides. Both the soffits and eaves are also clad in vinyl siding with the exception of the south façade, where the original plain wood boards are visible along the eaves. Large sections of vinyl cladding are also missing on the east and west façade, and in the northwest corner of the north façade, exposing the original wood trim underneath. All of the building's original doors and windows have been replaced or boarded over.

The building is located on a narrow, triangular lot between Main Street to the north and the railroad tracks to the south and west. The long north façade of the building sits very close the street behind a long, raised cement sidewalk that slopes down at its western end. The second floor has seven evenly spaced window openings surrounded by vinyl shutters installed on the walls either side of the frames. These shutters are also found on the east, west and south facades of the building. The first three openings on the left side of the façade are boarded over, while the remaining four are filled with aluminum one-over-one replacement windows. On the first floor, the building has been divided into three commercial spaces. In the far left corner, a pair of large sliding windows is located in the corner next to a single glass and metal commercial door with a long glass sidelight to its left. At the center of the façade, a similar door is set one step higher on the façade. This door is surrounded on both sides by single-paned sidelights with a large, arched divided light transom stretching above them. In the right corner of the building, a curving blue canvas awning extends above the same door and window configuration seen in the left corner of the façade. Four narrow skylights are located across the north slope of the slate roof.

On the east façade, a four-part slanting contemporary window is located in the right half of the gable end. The top edge of the window follows the slant of the gable end. A smaller opening to its left has been boarded over. Three large double hung windows originally lined the second floor, each surrounded by vinyl shutters. Today, only the center window is still intact and the windows to either side have been boarded over. On the first floor, a newer solid metal paneled door is located in the left corner of the façade at the top of two cement steps. An awning window is located to its right at the center of the façade. The west façade of the building is the mirror image of the east façade with a few exceptions. An air conditioning unit is located in place of the opening in the gable end. On the second floor, the left corner has a window and the other two openings are boarded over. The first floor varies from the east façade by having three smaller double hung windows located below the larger second floor windows. Here, the window in the right corner is boarded over.

On the south façade, a door is located near the center of the façade on the second floor of the building. The rusted metal door is accessed by a tall, utilitarian wood staircase that is a later addition to the building. A narrow awning window is located to either side of the door, with two double hung windows in each corner. An air

Continuation sheet 3

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conditioning unit is also located between each pair of windows. A first floor entrance is located in the left corner of the façade to the left of another air conditioning unit located above a small awning window, and another awning window is located in the right corner of the façade. Four skylights line the south slope of the slate roof.

The site is entirely paved with metal railing running along the railroad tracks in the southwest corner of the site. The land drops down to the south and west of the property, causing changes in the level of the paving around the building. Overgrown bushes are located along the west and south facades of the building.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

White's History of Hanson notes that this is the second Harold T. Clark store at this location. The former South Grammar School House had originally been located here. In 1881, the building was sold to H.T. Clark, who used it as a storehouse. The building was sold again a few years later and moved to 231 Holmes Street, where today it serves as a garage. White states that the current building replaced the former school house in 1898 and was built by Frank F. Keene for Edwin T. Clark. This account is consistent with the map history of the area, as the building does not appear on either the 1856 Walling Map of Hanson or the 1879 Walker Atlas of Plymouth County. By 1879, however, the property is shown as belonging to an L. Keene, who also owned a building to the east of the site. It is not until the 1903 Richards Atlas that the building is shown in its current location, where it is listed as the E.T. Clark Estate Store.

Frank F. Keene (1848-1907) was born in Hanson to Nahum and Nancy Keene and married Maria Hathaway in 1872, at which point he was working as a carpenter. He is listed in both State and Federal censuses in the 1860s through the 18802 as a carpenter, and in the 1900 U.S. Census is listed as a contractor. Edwin T. Clarke (1849-1900) was initially a shoemaker like his father, Edwin Clark, before him and is listed as such in the 1860 and 1870 U.S. Census. In 1871, he married Marietta Truett¹ and by the 1880 U.S. Census was working as a retail grocer in Pembroke. By 1900, Edwin and Marietta had returned to Hanson where they opened their own store around 1898. A picture of the store in 1912 shows its original detailing including a wide wood cornice, projecting wood trimmed eaves, and decorative wood frames surrounding the windows and doors as well as working wood shutters on the double hung windows. The picture only shows the left half of the building, where an open hip roofed porch covers the entrance of the store. Large divided light store windows are just visible within the porch. The caption for this photo notes that Edwin was succeeded by two sons, George and Harold T. Clark, who operated the store for half a century, and later by a grandson, Roger Clark.²

Edwin T. Clark died not long after opening the new store in 1900 and George Clark initially took over the operation. It is not clear, however, how long George Clark operated the business. In the 1900 U.S. Census, George is listed as a stenographer and he appears to have moved to Boston by 1910. In the meantime, Harold T. Clark had taken over the business by 1910, when he is listed as operating the grocery, and continued to own and operate well into the mid-twentieth century. The building, though, was transferred to his son, Roger Clark, in 1945.³ Roger and Harold ran a store here through the early 1970s. Shortly before Harold's death in 1976, Roger sold the building to Albert and Geraldine Brown. The Browns ownership of the building was short, as they lost the building to foreclosure in 1978. Helen and Arthur Lemieaux briefly owned the building beginning in 1980, but after Arthur's death, Helen sold it to the Babson Realty Corporation of Chestnut Hill. From 1983 through 2015, Babson managed the building and its various occupants, which included a Priority Music and later Old South

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/148256016/edwin-t.-clark>

² Images of America: Hanson, Page 85

³ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 1879, Page 462

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Shore Antiques. Babson Realty is also the owner who is most likely responsible for its current appearance and storefronts. The building was sold to Samuel Germaine in 2015 and again in 2018 to current owners Nilton Depina and Ana Andrade of Bridgewater.

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